

# ART HISTORY (AH)

## AH 0010 Origins and Transformations in Western Art 3 Credits

**Attributes:** GDAH Graphic Design: Art History, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

From the mysterious depths of Paleolithic cave painting to the soaring heights of Gothic cathedral vaulting, this course surveys the early history of Western art. The course begins with the origins of art-making in prehistoric, Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Greek, and Roman cultures before viewing the transformations of these ancient arts traditions in early Christian and medieval societies. The course offers students a working vocabulary with which to compose visual analyses of works of art and evaluate them in a social and historical context. One class takes place at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

## AH 0011 Visual Culture Since 1400: Expression and Experimentation 3 Credits

**Attributes:** GDAH Graphic Design: Art History, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

This course explores the ways in which people use images to record their world. From the development of linear perspective in the early Renaissance to the assimilation of advances in optical sciences in the baroque period and the incorporation of photography in the 19th century, art has responded to technological advances and created distinct and expressive visual cultures. By exploring painting, sculpture, the graphic arts, and architecture, students learn to analyze how the contemporary world is designed and defined by a visual heritage that incorporates historical images into film, television, and advertising. One class takes place at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

## AH 0013 Art of Africa, the Caribbean, and the Americas 3 Credits

**Attributes:** BSCC Black Studies Component Course, GDAH Graphic Design: Art History, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course, WDIV World Diversity

This course is an introduction to art and architecture of Africa, the Caribbean islands, and Central America, South America and North America. Major works of art and architecture will be examined to understand the respective cultures and traditions of these regions. Cultures designated by their geographical locations will provide a frame of study for African visual culture. Art of Caribbean islands and the influence of the African diaspora will be explored. The Americas will be represented by Pre-Columbian and Native American visual arts. Students will be introduced to different art historical approaches and vocabulary used to study art from each of these areas.

## AH 0014 Art of Asia 3 Credits

**Attributes:** GDAH Graphic Design: Art History, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course, WDIV World Diversity

This course introduces major monuments of the arts of Asia, including architecture, painting, sculpture, ceramics, and prints. Following a roughly chronological progression spanning over three millennia, the course emphasizes contact between Asian civilizations, including South, Southeast, Central, and East Asia, as well as artistic exchanges between Asia and the West. Foci include: ancient funerary arts, the development of Buddhist art throughout the continent, and secular arts associated with imperial courts and the rise of cities. The course highlights collections of Asian art at the Bellarmine Museum, Yale University, and in New York City.

## AH 0015 History of Architecture 3 Credits

**Attributes:** GDAH Graphic Design: Art History, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

This introductory course surveys the major periods and key monuments in the history of architecture - largely in the West - from antiquity to the present. Topics include Greek and Roman temples and civic architecture; Medieval mosques and cathedrals; Renaissance and Baroque cities and their monuments; Early Modern factories and gardens; Machine Age museums and houses; and contemporary architectural developments of all sorts. Students will work with actual buildings in writing assignments, and learn the skills necessary to critique and interpret the built environment of the past and present in the United States and beyond.

## AH 0102 Art of East Asia 3 Credits

**Attributes:** GDAH Graphic Design: Art History, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course, WDIV World Diversity

This course surveys the art and architectural history of China, Korea, and Japan, emphasizing cultural and artistic contact between these cultures. Periods of focus include the Shang, Han, Tang, Song, and Qing dynasties in China; the Jōmon, Nara, Heian, Kamakura, Edo and Meiji periods in Japan; and the Three Kingdoms period, Goryeo, and Joseon dynasties in Korea. The course highlights collections of Asian art at Yale University and in New York City, incorporating special exhibitions of East Asian art relevant to the course.

## AH 0109 Jewish Art: Moses to Modernity 3 Credits

**Attributes:** GDAH Graphic Design: Art History, JST Judaic Studies Minor, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

The earliest known written description of the Jewish people is a visual record on an ancient victory monument. Dated from the 13th century B.C.E., a carved stele dedicated to Pharaoh Merneptah presents a hieroglyphic relief inauspiciously boasting: "Israel is laid waste, his seed is no more." Tracing 4,000 years of Jewish art, culture, and ritual, this course is a panoramic overview of visual expression of a people wandering through six continents, innumerable styles and artistic identities. How did the ineffable theophany at Sinai spark the complexity of Judaism's struggle with Greco-Roman pagan idolatry versus attempts at capturing the "spirit of God with wisdom and discernment and the knowledge of workmanship to design designs" [Exodus 35] transforming spirituality into a living art?

## AH 0111 Greek Art and Archaeology 3 Credits

**Attributes:** GDAH Graphic Design: Art History, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

This survey covers the major developments in architecture, sculpture, and painting from the time of Homer to the collapse of the Hellenistic world. The course considers the formation of the Pan-Hellenic sanctuaries of Olympia and Delphi in the geometric and archaic periods and the rise of democracy under the leadership of Pericles in Athens, culminating in the Parthenon of the high classical period and the creation of an empire under Alexander the Great. Students explore the legacy of Greek achievement in the context of its impact on the Roman world and later art. The course emphasizes objects in area museums and includes field trips.

**AH 0112 Etruscan and Roman Art and Archaeology 3 Credits**

**Attributes:** GDAH Graphic Design: Art History, ISIF Italian Studies: Italy-Focused, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

In this course we will examine art of the Roman Republic and empire, beginning with an introduction to Etruscan Italy before Roman conquest. The major themes of the course are: society as reflected in portraiture; religion as communicated in temple and domestic architecture and decoration; the organization and architecture of urban spaces; the architecture and decoration of houses. These themes will also be related to the art of other places and times, including that of the ancient Greeks and our own society. The course emphasizes objects in area museums and includes trips to world-class museums in our region.

**AH 0113 Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt: Images for Eternity 3 Credits**

**Attributes:** GDAH Graphic Design: Art History, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

This course, devoted to the history of ancient Egyptian art from the pre-dynastic period (4200 B.C.E.) to the time of the Roman occupation (100 C.E.), focuses on major themes, important stylistic movements, and selected masterpieces of Egyptian architecture, sculpture, relief, painting, and minor arts. Students consider the formation of major arts in the pre-dynastic period; great monuments of the Old Kingdom such as Djoser, Khufu, and Khafre pyramid complexes; classical art of the Middle Kingdom with its royal temples, pyramids, and tombs; New Kingdom temples at Karnak and Luxor; and the splendor and revolution of Amarna art. The course emphasizes objects in area collections, especially in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

**AH 0120 Medieval Art of Western Europe 3 Credits**

**Attributes:** CAOT Catholic Studies: Non-Religious Studies, FREN French Course Taught in English, GDAH Graphic Design: Art History, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

This introduction to medieval art and architecture in Western Europe – from its Roman, Jewish, and early Christian sources to the Gothic period – explores continuity and change in art and society, including relationships to Islamic and Byzantine art. Themes of the course include the relationship of belief and ritual to religious imagery and architecture, the impact of imperial and ecclesiastical patronage, and the influence of other cultures on art forms and iconography. The course includes a field trip.

**AH 0121 Celtic and Early Irish Art 3 Credits**

**Attributes:** CAOT Catholic Studies: Non-Religious Studies, GDAH Graphic Design: Art History, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

This course traces Celtic art from its sources and history on the European continent (1200 B.C.E. to the first century C.E.) to its migration to the British Isles and its subsequent transformation as it interacts with native cultures there, particularly the Irish culture. It examines native Irish art from the stone circles and passage graves of 3000-2000 B.C.E. to the introduction of the Celtic style and the golden age of Ireland's conversion to Christianity. Rich new art forms such as illustrated bibles, jeweled chalices and reliquaries, high crosses, and the introduction of monastic and ecclesiastical architecture will be discussed. The course also considers the medieval revivals in the 19th and 20th centuries and includes a first-hand examination of Fairfield University's facsimile of the Book of Kells.

**AH 0130 Early Renaissance Art in Italy 3 Credits**

**Attributes:** CAOT Catholic Studies: Non-Religious Studies, GDAH Graphic Design: Art History, ISIF Italian Studies: Italy-Focused, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

In this panoramic overview of Italian art, culture, and society between 1300 and 1520, we explore the city of Florence as the "cradle of a new world." From its art workshops and urban planning studios, the monumental Duomo of Brunelleschi rises to symbolize a new era for human creativity. Viewing masterpiece artworks, we discover the exciting shift from medieval formalism to a new aristocratic elegance, opulence, and classical humanism. In this interdisciplinary humanities course, we contrast and compare aspects of Florentine culture as symbolized and visualized in the arts. Artworks depict banking, science, engineering, diplomacy, women's traditional roles of domesticity in the court, and a new appreciation for clothing fashions. Course includes visits to world-renowned area museums allowing students to study first-hand prime examples of Florentine art. No prerequisite beyond a curiosity to learn how Renaissance art of the past enriches our lives in the present.

**AH 0131 High Renaissance and Mannerism in Italy 3 Credits**

**Attributes:** CAOT Catholic Studies: Non-Religious Studies, ISIF Italian Studies: Italy-Focused, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

This course examines the achievements of artists during one of the richest art-historical eras. We trace the rise of artistic giants such as Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael and the socio-cultural contexts in which they worked. Innovations of Mannerists such as Pontormo, Bronzino, and Correggio will be considered, as well as the reaction to these artists in the wake of religious reform.

**AH 0135 Renaissance and Baroque Architecture 3 Credits**

**Attributes:** CAOT Catholic Studies: Non-Religious Studies, GDAH Graphic Design: Art History, ISIF Italian Studies: Italy-Focused, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

In this survey of the architecture and urbanism of 15th- through early 18th-century Europe and its colonial world, we will address topics such as the Renaissance revival of antiquity and its impact on architecture, the changing nature of architectural practice, the role of religious orders like the Jesuits in changing architectural style and taste, and the importance of new ideas about architecture and cities.

**AH 0140 Baroque Art 3 Credits**

**Attributes:** CAOT Catholic Studies: Non-Religious Studies, GDAH Graphic Design: Art History, ISIF Italian Studies: Italy-Focused, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

The 17th century in Europe was marked by profound shifts in politics, religion, and culture, which are reflected in the art produced during then. This course surveys painting, sculpture, architecture, and urbanism of the Baroque era, with a focus on Italy, Spain, and France. Among the themes explored are: the impact of religious reform on the visual arts of Catholic lands; the notion of classicism as an artistic ideal; the role of academies and the market in promoting the arts; the popularity of portraiture and self-portraiture; and the shaping of cities as works of art.

**AH 0152 Modern Art 3 Credits**

**Attributes:** GDAH Graphic Design: Art History, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

In this course we explore a diverse range of art works and issues, which were central to the practice of Modern Art in Europe and the United States from the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. This course focuses on the artists who challenged the institution of Western art, re-interpreted its norms, and used Modernism as both subject and context. Class revolutions, industrialization, urbanization, imperialism, and capitalism are addressed through a close study of various artists and artworks. The enormous impact of European Modern Art on the rest of the world is considered with the examination of orientalism, primitivism, and "colonial" modernisms. A variety of sources such as novels, philosophical and political texts, films, newspapers, and music are used to inform our understanding of these -isms and Modern Art.

**AH 0164 American Art and Media Culture 3 Credits**

**Attributes:** ASGW American Studies: Gateway, ASVP American Studies: Visual and Performing Arts, GDAH Graphic Design: Art History, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

In tracing the themes and artistic statements of American artists, the course takes special notice of unifying national myths such as the Founding Fathers, Manifest Destiny, America as the new Eden, the frontier from the Rockies to the lunar surface, heroes from Davy Crockett to Superman, and America as utopia. Through the masterpieces of Church, Cole, Homer, Eakins, Sloan, Hopper, Pollock, Rothko, Wyeth, Warhol, and the Downtown art scene, the course answers the question: What is uniquely American about American art?

**AH 0165 The Black Experience: African-American Art and Criticism in the 20th and 21st Centuries 3 Credits**

**Attributes:** ASGW American Studies: Gateway, ASVP American Studies: Visual and Performing Arts, BSAH Black Studies: Arts and Humanities, BSFC Black Studies Focus Course, GDAH Graphic Design: Art History, UDIV U.S. Diversity, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

This course explores black art and culture in the twentieth century. We will focus on the artworks themselves and, when possible, the artist's dialogue. Events in United States history such as the emancipation from slavery and the Civil War Era, the Harlem Renaissance, Jazz Age, Great Depression, Civil Rights Movements, AIDS crisis of the 80's, and the Los Angeles race riots of the 90's are used as context to understand black art and culture. While art works created by African-American artists are the primary focus, Cuban and Haitian art and artists are also considered. Throughout the course there is a focus on thinking critically when looking at art as well as how to articulate ideas in writing.

**AH 0172 History of Photography 3 Credits**

**Attributes:** GDAH Graphic Design: Art History, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

Students will learn the general historical development of photography from the 1830s to the present day. Concentrating primarily on Europe and the United States, this survey examines some of the themes threaded throughout photography's short history: the interrelationships between photography and other arts, the effect of technology on the medium, identity construction by and through photographs, and the tradition of the popular photograph. Social, cultural, and economic issues are considered as well as important photographers and photographic movements. Throughout the course there is a focus on thinking critically when looking at a photograph as well as how to articulate ideas in writing.

**AH 0175 Contemporary Art 3 Credits**

**Attributes:** GDAH Graphic Design: Art History, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

This course offers a historical, critical, and stylistic analysis of major trends in contemporary art in Europe and the United States, giving special consideration to artist dialogue (text and video) and criticism. The course specifically examines art against the broader cultural, political, social, and philosophical context of the artwork. The course emphasizes objects in area museums.

**AH 0191 Art and Mythologies of Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, Bolshevik Russia: Comparative Systems & Outcomes 3 Credits**

**Attributes:** GDAH Graphic Design: Art History, GMEL German Major or Minor Course, GMEN German Course Taught in English, ISIC Italian Studies: Italy Component, JST Judaic Studies Minor, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

This interdisciplinary approach to the visual Zeitgeist of these major political/national crises in Europe between 1917 and 1945 surveys the visual rhetoric of Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, and Bolshevik Russia through the widest possible definition of the visual arts. The course includes the traditional fine arts of painting, sculpture, and architecture as well as the mass cultural outlets of film, radio, propaganda posters, and the staging of public events. The class eliminates the distinctions between high and utilitarian mediums of expression; all means of persuasion are fair game. This course allows students to better understand the complexities of these political/nationalist issues; the "window" is the lens provided by the visual arts and mass media. In doing so, students recognize how the symbolic languages of mythology were married to political ideologies and shaped public opinion from the national consciousness.

**AH 0192 The History, Theory, and Practice of Museums 3 Credits**

**Attributes:** VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

This course focuses on the history and theory of museums, their operations and roles in society and the practical application of museum theory. Students will put the rapidly evolving field of museum studies into a meaningful context while simultaneously gaining a clearer understanding of contemporary industry standards and modes of best professional practice.

**AH 0193 Inside Museums and Galleries: Taste, Place, Public Space 3 Credits**

**Attributes:** VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

This course explores the interactive role of the curator and the museum and gallery visitor in the dynamic cultural spaces of museums, galleries, and public historic spaces, parks, monuments, etc. We explore the responsibilities, ethics, and educational goals for the professional staff of not-for-profit museums in terms of serving the common good of the general public. If museums are "temples of culture," then we need to understand the ways these public "faiths" act while open and engaging for all. In contrast, we highlight the similarities and differences when artworks or collectible objects are placed into a commercialized, for profit-gallery/auction house context. This is an introductory course, welcoming students ready to experience and learn about the rich spectrum of museums, galleries, auction houses, and cultural institutions within the Tri-State area. Field trips include visits with top professionals who share their expertise and experiences.

**AH 0195 Introduction to Museum Studies 3 Credits**

This course explores the role of the museum and gallery curator as well as the curator's responsibilities to the object, the museum, and collectors; and federal and corporate funding. The course includes field trips.

**AH 0209 The Historic Plaster Cast Collection at Fairfield University****3 Credits****Prerequisite:** One 100-level or lower art history course.

Students will study the history of plaster cast collections in Europe and the U.S. including Fairfield's growing collection. Emphasis will be given to the Fairfield collection by conducting research on the plaster casts. Students will assist with museum and website information. Students will clean and apply light restoration to plaster casts in preparation for their display in different areas on campus. Class visits to the Slater Museum, the Institute for Classical Architecture, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art will be scheduled. Consultation with curators and sculptors will provide additional guidance to students.

**AH 0210 Myth in Classical Art****3 Credits****Attributes:** VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course**Prerequisite:** One 100-level or lower art history course or permission of the instructor.

Greek and Roman art serve as a rich depository of Greek mythology with a wide range of representations that evolved across the centuries. As a source of information, classical art sometimes preserves myths that are otherwise unknown in the surviving literature. In some cases visual representations date earlier than an extant literary description or differ in the story details. This course focuses on ancient sources - visual and literary - to study the Olympian gods; the heroes, Perseus, Herakles, Theseus, and Odysseus; the Trojan War; and battles such as the gods and giants, Lapiths and Centaurs, and Amazons and Greeks. The course compares the appearance of certain of these myths on specific monuments during certain periods in the classical world, emphasizing examples in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Yale University Art Gallery, and the Historic Plaster Cast Collection at Fairfield.

**AH 0221 The Arts of Ireland and the British Isles, 500-1000****3 Credits****Attributes:** CAOT Catholic Studies: Non-Religious Studies, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course**Prerequisite:** One 100-level or lower art history course or permission of the instructor.

This course explores the art and architecture produced in Ireland, England, and Scotland during the early medieval period, often called the "Golden Age of Insular Art." It was an era of rich cultural exchange during which Irish and continental monks were instrumental in the spread of Christianity throughout the British Isles; Irish settled in Scotland; the Anglo-Saxon kingdom was established in England; and Vikings invaded Ireland and Britain. Arts in all media combined pre-Christian Celtic and Germanic traditions with new Christian forms. Irish monasteries throughout the British Isles were centers of production for sumptuous manuscripts such as the Book of Kells and liturgical vessels including the Ardagh Chalice. Monastic architecture and high crosses will also be considered, as well as secular objects such as aristocratic jewelry.

**AH 0222 Byzantine Art****3 Credits****Attributes:** CAOT Catholic Studies: Non-Religious Studies, VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course**Prerequisite:** One 100-level or lower art history course or permission of the instructor.

This course focuses on the art of the medieval Byzantine Empire, a period of strong imperial patronage that saw the rise of Christianity and its associated new forms of art and architecture. The course is organized chronologically, from Byzantine art's late antique Pagan Roman, Early Christian, and Jewish sources to its relationship to Islamic art and its later impact on the development of the arts of Western Europe and Russia. The major themes of the course are: the relationship of belief and ritual to religious imagery and architecture; cultural exchange and influence on art forms and iconography; and the impact of imperial patronage on art and architecture. These themes will also be related to the art of other places and times, including our own. We will explore continuity and change in the content and style of Byzantine Art over time, while constantly being aware of the relationship between art and society.

**AH 0290 Special Topics in Art History****3 Credits****Attributes:** VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course**Prerequisite:** One 100-level or lower art history course or permission of the instructor.

Students conduct an in-depth study of a specific subject in the history of art.

**AH 0292 Museums, Art, Ethics, and the Law****3 Credits****Attributes:** VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course**Prerequisite:** One 100-level or lower art history course or permission of the instructor.

This course examines the complex legal and ethical issues surrounding the conception, creation, communication, display, reproduction, ownership, transfer, and protection of works of art. The first unit is devoted to defining "art" and discussing artists' rights. The legal and ethical constraints affecting museums, collectors and the art market generally will be covered in the second unit, while the third unit will grapple with the problematic area of cultural property (with particular emphasis on looting, plunder, identity, trade, reparation, restitution and restitution). In each of these three segments, we shall read and discuss relevant case law, as well as a number of commentaries authored by leading experts in the field.

**AH 0300 Independent Study****3 Credits****Attributes:** VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

This in-depth exploration of a specific topic in art history involves students in independent research and field study. Open to students with approval of a faculty member and the director of the Art History program.

**AH 0310 Internship****1-3 Credits****Attributes:** VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

Internships allow students to gain hands-on experience in fields related to art history through supervised work for galleries, museums, auction houses, and other venues. Internships give students experience in a professional environment, help them to identify possible career paths, and give them skills that they do not acquire in the classroom. Students may apply for on-campus internships at Fairfield's Bellarmine Museum of Art or Thomas J. Walsh Art Gallery, or pursue placement in local or New York City arts institutions. Internships require permission from the Art History program's internship coordinator before registration.

**AH 0320 Junior Seminar 3 Credits**

**Attributes:** VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course, WSGF Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: Gender Focused

Required of all art history majors in the fall semester of the junior year, this seminar introduces students to the history of the discipline of Art History. Students learn the different methods and approaches art historians use to study works of art, and apply these approaches through discussion and written assignments.

**AH 0330 Senior Capstone Seminar 3 Credits**

**Attributes:** VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course

Required of all art history majors in the spring semester of the senior year, this seminar offers rotating topics that reflect the areas of expertise and research among Fairfield's art history faculty members and culminates in an in-depth research project.

**AH 0330A Senior Capstone Seminar 3 Credits**

**Attributes:** VPCH Visual and Performing Arts Core: History Course  
See AH 0330.